

# New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

## **Military and Veterans Affairs Committee**

October 21, 2021

Cabinet Secretary Sonya Smith





## Agenda

- VSO Update
- HRTG Update
- Upcoming Events



# VSO Update

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**Current Field Offices:**

Albuquerque (2), Alamogordo, Carlsbad  
Clovis, Farmington, Gallup, Grants (2), Hobbs  
Las Cruces, Last Vegas, Rio Rancho,  
Roswell, Santa Fe, and Silver City

**Planned Field Offices\*:**

Taos and Belen

\* Farmington

\*Gallup

\*Grants

\* Silver City

\*Taos

\*Santa Fe

\*Las Vegas

\* Rio Rancho

\*Albuquerque

\* Belen

Clovis\*

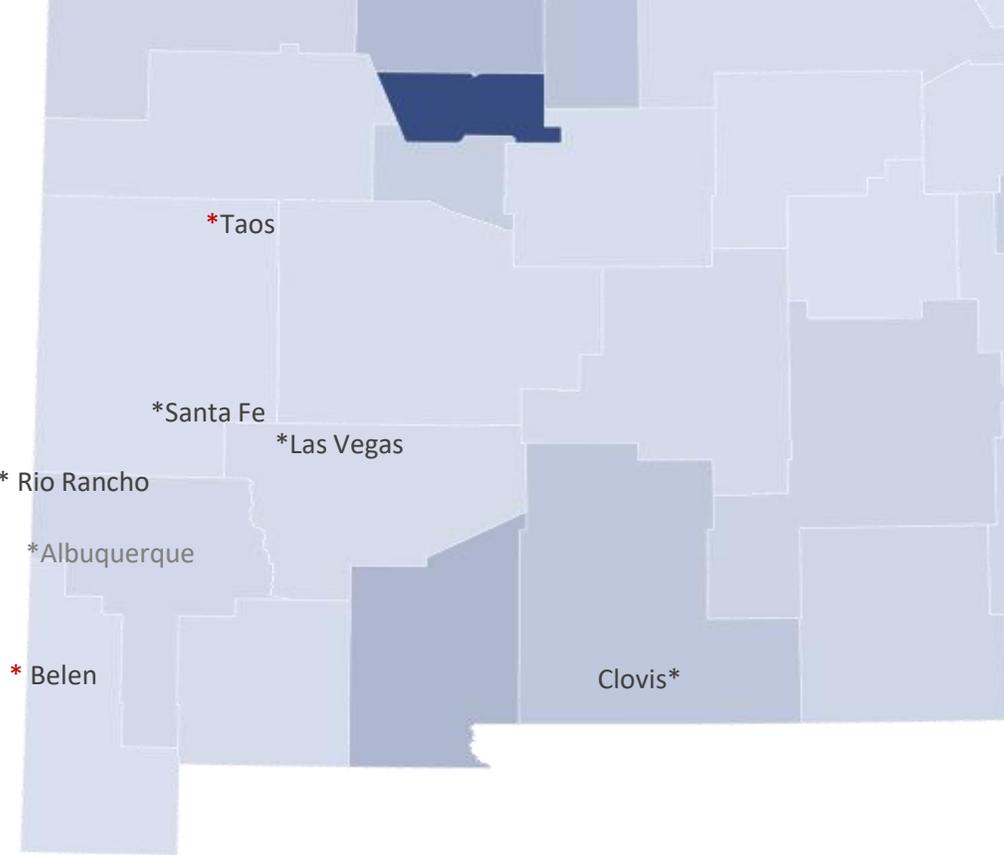
\*Roswell

\*Alamogordo

Hobbs\*

\*Carlsbad

\*Las Cruces





### **Field Services Engagements (FY22 QTR 1):**

	<b>FY22 (Quarter 1)</b>
Federal Claims	566
State Benefits	527
ITFs	254
POAs	347
Office Visits	1172

\*Note – number of state benefits, ITFs, and POAs exceed Quarter 1 numbers for both FY20 and FY21. Number of office visits is comparable to FY20.

### **Vacancy Update:**

- 5 new VSO hires in the last 30 days: Silver City, Las Cruces (2), ABQ, and Santa Fe
- 6 vacancies: Grants, Hobbs, Taos, Alamogordo, Belen and Santa Fe
- Current vacancy rate: 6/26\*



# Highly Rural Transportation Update

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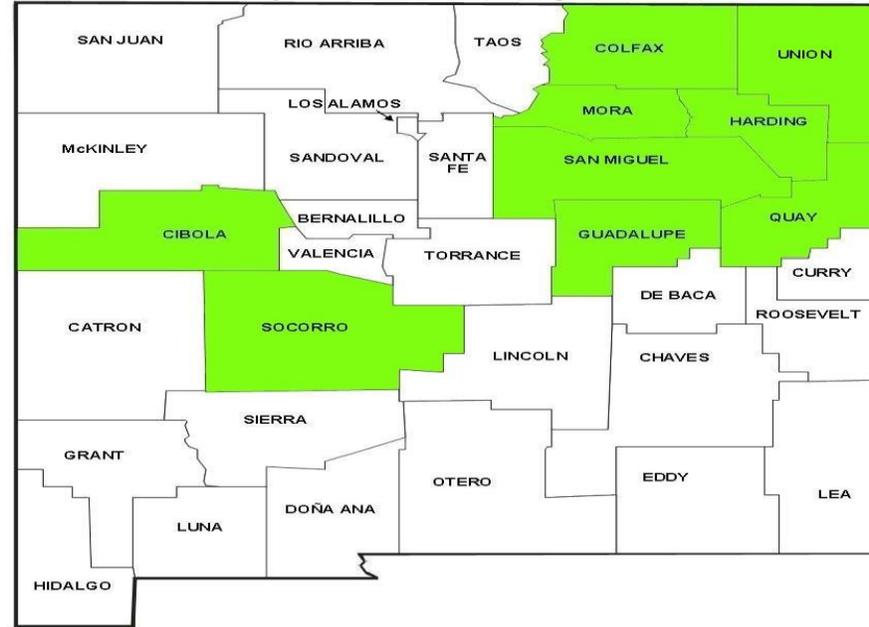


## HRTG Renewed and Expanded:

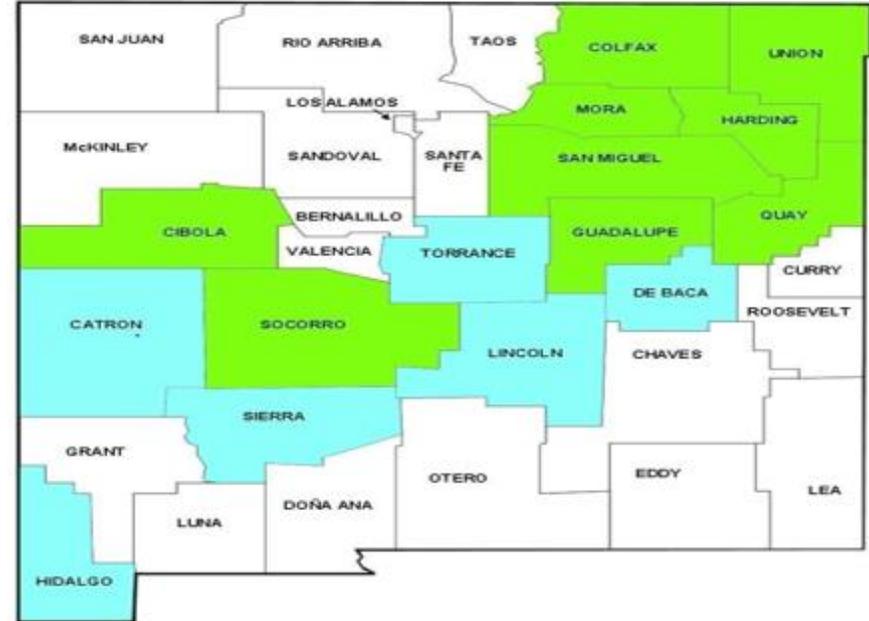
- Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) recap: federal grant funding is awarded to qualified organizations for providing transportation services for veterans in highly rural areas to and from VA approved medical appointments.. Highly rural area is defined by the VA as a county with less than 7 people per square mile. New Mexico has **15** qualifying counties.
- DVS received its first HRTG in FY21, completing 144 rides, most of which in the last quarter\*; it was renewed in September 2021.
- Nine counties were originally selected for last FY's pilot: Cibola, Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Socorro, and Union. FY22 Grant now covers all 15 counties designated highly rural areas, adding Catron, De Baca, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Sierra, and Torrance.
- Rides for the original nine counties continue; the agency is currently establishing contracts for the additional six counties.



### HRTG Operational Footprint (FY21)



### HRTG Operational Footprint (FY22)





# Recent and Upcoming Events

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### **Recent Events:**

- Angel Fire Brick Laying
- Forgotten Heroes Ceremony <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TSaTgXGRHE>

### **Upcoming Events:**

- First responder parade for the Veteran's Home in T or C (November 6th)
- FBI Outreach (November 9th)
- Santa Fe Veteran Film Festival (November 11th)

Questions/Comments?

# Every Day is Veterans Day!



The New Mexico  
Department of Veterans'  
Services

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